

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to multi-segment air bag tether panels and to a pattern-wise arrangement of such tether segments in relation to air bag panels on a fabric blank.

- 5 In one embodiment, the tether panel is comprised of two or more tether segments that
are cut in substantial alignment with the warp or the fill of the fabric blank. The tether
panels are then connected to one another along their tether-attachment ends to form a
functional tether system. This multiple-segment construction decreases the amount of
fabric that is used in the manufacture of the air bag and tethers, while providing sufficient
10 elongation for the tether system to be functional.